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Your Excellency:

Mr. Ambassador:

Friends:

I welcome you to Washington and I am delighted to have this opportunity to host you for this luncheon. I remember well the generous hospitality of the Chinese Government when I visited Beijing in 1977. I also recall with pleasure the memorable dinner which Ambassador Chai hosted on January 2 to mark the first anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations.

Your visit this week, Your Excellency, is further evidence of the dramatic progress which has been made in our relationship over the past fifteen months. We look forward to a long and constructive relationship based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

During Secretary Brown's visit to Beijing our governments exchanged views on the causes and consequences of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Now, nearly three months later, we are better able to evaluate the steps which our two countries are taking to meet this challenge to peace and stability, not merely in Southwest Asia, but in the world at large. Mr. Christopher presented our views to you this morning in some detail. It is clear that we share many common perceptions and common goals. It is also clear that, to the extent possible, we should act in ways which

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are mutually supportive. Like you, we do not view the Soviet thrust as an isolated event. Nor can we allow our response to be governed by short-term, tactical considerations. We are committed to a course which will significantly enhance our own capabilities to influence events in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean in an effort to assist the countries of the region to remain free and independent. Like you, we also seek to encourage the reduction of tensions between countries of the region and to achieve a stable peace.

Your Excellency, we live in a troubled world. But we can take profound satisfaction from the fact that our two countries have overcome decades of estrangement and suspicion in such a short time. We have no doubt that these consultations will facilitate our efforts to pursue parallel and mutually reinforcing policies in Southwest Asia and other regions. They also provide a means of promoting expanded cooperation in a variety of bilateral and multilateral issues for the benefit of the peoples of both countries.

It is my pleasure to propose a toast --

To Premier Hua Guofeng;

To President Jimmy Carter;

To the growing friendship between our two peoples.